

REMARKS

A. **Request for Reconsideration**

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

B. **Claims Status**

Claims 1-18 are pending in this Application.

Claims 1-14 have been withdrawn from consideration by this response.

Claims 15-18 have been amended herein to address the Examiner's objections to the claims and to address the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. 102.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

C. **Restriction Requirement**

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants elect to further prosecute in this patent application Group III, claims 15-18, drawn to a screwed joint. This restriction is made without traverse.

D. **Information Disclosure Statement**

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2). Authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275 for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

E. **Drawings**

The Examiner objected to the drawings because some of the reference characters were not readable and appeared as letters. The Examiner further objected to the shading and missing cross-hatching in the drawings and suggested certain corrections. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated and have been adopted herein. Replacement sheets for each of the thirteen figures are attached.

The Examiner commented that through holes 26 should not be threaded since the pins 25 are not threaded. Examiner is correct that pins 25 are not threaded; however, through holes 26 are shown as threaded because these holes are used to

secure the wheel bolts (not shown). Pins 25 are sized to be compatible with threaded holes 26 as shown in figures 10 and 11.

The Examiner objected to figure 4 because reference characters 12 and 13 were used to designate the same component and reference character 12 was underlined. The Examiner's comments are appreciated and have been adopted herein. Replacement sheet for figure 4 is attached.

F. Abstract Objection

Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure for using the phrase "The invention relates to" and "means" in line 3. The Abstract has been amended herein to delete these phrases.

G. Specification Objection

Examiner objected to the specification because the brief description of the drawings section was not included and the heading section "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION" is missing. The specification has been amended herein to incorporate this section and heading.

Respectfully, no new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

H. Claim Objections

Examiner objected to claim 15 for having the following informality: "the direction" should be - a direction---. Claim 15 has been amended herein.

I. 112 Rejection

Claims 15-18 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15-18 have been amended herein to recite the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

Respectfully, the claims now presented herein are definite.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

J. Prior Art Rejection

The Examiner had put forward two prior art rejections. The prior are rejections are as follows:

- (1) Claims 15-18 had been rejected as being anticipated by Norman; and
- (2) Claims 15-18 had been rejected as being anticipated by Hetmann.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the undercut has a radial wall facing the flange and the nut is extended axially by means of a shank. Support for these limitations can be found on page 11, first full paragraph, and in figure 7. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 15 presented herein is patentable over the teachings of Norman and Hetmann taken alone or in combination and these rejections are now moot.

Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15. It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 16-18 presented herein are patentable over the teachings of Norman and Hetmann taken alone or in combination and these rejections are now moot.

K. Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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